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Email to: Chris.Calabrese@cga.ct.gov

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Reference: H.B. 6501

Subject: TESTIMONY

Request: Amend H.B. 6501 to ensure that the Scientifically Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) process not delay a comprehensive evaluation or eligibility determination.

Dear CT Legislators:

I fully support H.B. 6501 but believe it must be amended to ensure that the Scientifically Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) process, which I support, does not delay a comprehensive evaluation or eligibility determination for needy students.

SRBI is intended to facilitate learning but too frequently it becomes a means to protract the time required to refer a needy student to special education. The three Tier SRBI system is excellent but too frequently needy students can languish in Tier II or Tier III, when remediation in special education would apparently provide a more reliable solution to individual needs.

We all understand the cost ramifications when a student becomes part of the special education process. What we frequently fail to consider are the much higher costs that can result from inaction or unnecessarily deferred action.

The sooner positive remediation occurs, the better the student's prospects for success will be. In fact, early remediation increases the potential for improvement exponentially. While the upfront costs are higher, the ultimate costs are reduced and the benefits to our society are markedly improved.

Please amend this H.B. 6501 to ensure that it includes SRBI but that SRBI will not be used to delay a comprehensive evaluation, or eligibility determination, for needy students.

Sincerely,

Donald K. Takacs

President
ConnBIDA (The Connecticut Branch of the International Dyslexia Association)